

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03833 111846Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00

OES-09 OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

/080 W

-----053718 111908Z /40

O R 111741Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1208

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

USICA WASHDC

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, SNAR, HO

SUBJ: VOICE OF AMERICA INACCURATE REPORTS ALLEGE MELGAR

REMOVED BECAUSE OF NARCOTICS SCANDAL

1. WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OUT OF TEGUCIGALPA, PICKED UP IN OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE U.S., HAVE IMPLIED THAT THE REASON FOR THE REMOVAL OF GENERAL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR WAS HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. ONE SUCH REPORT WAS BROADCAST BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA (VOA) IN ITS EVENING NEWS PROGRAM, AUGUST 8. IN ADDITION, THE MIAMI HERALD'S FRONT PAGE STORY AUGUST 9 REPEATED THIS ALLEGATION, AS HAVE OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

2. PROMINENT PERSONS AND PRESS HERE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER THESE INACCURATE REPORTS OF ALLEGATIONS WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN MADE WHILE MELGAR WAS CHIEF OF STATE. RAMON VILLEDA BERMUDEZ, DIRECTOR OF DAILY "LA PRENSA" IN A RADIO INTERVIEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03833 111846Z

AUGUST 10 CALLED FOR AN EXPLANATION FROM THE EMBASSY, IN VIEW OF THE VOA'S STORY AND THE BELIEF IT REPRESENTS AN OFFICIAL USG STATEMENT. USICA PROVIDED HIM AND OTHER MEDIA AN EXPLANATION OF VOA ROLE AND A CLARIFICATION WAS BROADCAST BY VOA THE EVENING OF AUGUST 10.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION THAT MIGHT SUBSTAN-

TIATE THE WIRE SERVICE ALLEGATIONS. HONDURAS' ONGOING NARCOTICS
SCANDAL HAS ALREADY BEEN AMPLY REPORTED. THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY
PRESS AND PUBLIC INSISTENCE ON FULLER DISCLOSURE OF THAT SCANDAL
CONTRIBUTED TO THE REMOVAL OF MELGAR. BUT, AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY
IS AWARE, MELGAR HIMSELF HAS NEVER EVEN BEEN RUMORED TO BE INVOLVED
IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, UNLIKE OTHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT.
JARAMILLO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, NARCOTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEGUCIO3833
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780329-0302
Format: TEL
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780872/aaaachxv.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 28d38264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1762886
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VOICE OF AMERICA INACCURATE REPORTS ALLEGE MELGAR REMOVED BECAUSE OF NARCOTICS SCANDAL
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, SNAR, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/28d38264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014